



The Congregation at Duke University Chapel

Education. Fellowship. Mission

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

08-20-2020

We are ending with gratitude. This kind of gratitude:

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. (Psalm 30:11-12)

From the
Senior Pastor



This summer, we have explored the Psalms in depth in the Sunday morning Bible study. This series ends on August 23 by focusing on gratitude. The Psalter is filled with praise and thanksgiving, enumerating both actions for which we give thanks and God's nature which we adore. These Biblical poems remind us to recite all of the things for which we give thanks. Here are some of mine.

I give thanks for all the ways this congregation has adapted to and participated in online ministries.

I give thanks for new ministries that we are starting. Even in this difficult time, we are building new opportunities. You will see them in this newsletter.

I give thanks that students are back on campus and that the University is working hard to keep everyone healthy.

Most of all, I give thanks for God's mercies which are new every morning.

What is on your gratitude list?

In this season, as in all seasons, may God turn our mourning into dancing.

Carol

This Sunday August 23

Sunday morning classes will meet virtually from **9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**

- **WEE PRAISE:** Children ages 0-3 along with parents or caregivers may utilize the online videos previously shared via email. If you are not receiving emails with this information, please contact [Phyllis Snyder](#).
- **GODLY PLAY:** Children ages 4-5th graders can find a new video, and re-watch previous videos, on the [Congregation's YouTube channel](#).
- **PSALMS BIBLE STUDY:** This week's class will focus on Psalm 107 and gratitude. Norm Wirzba and Gretchen Ziegenhals will lead the discussion. [Psalms Zoom link is here.](#)

UNIVERSITY WORSHIP 11:00 a.m. Online

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of the Chapel

[Worship Online Here](#)

[Lectionary Readings](#)

All are welcome!

MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

The Christian Education Committee will meet after worship at **1:00 p.m.** All those interested in planning educational opportunities for the congregation are welcome to attend. [The Education Zoom Meeting link is here.](#)

LIFE TOGETHER GROUPS

The Congregation at Duke Chapel is launching a small group discipleship program this fall, starting from late August to mid-December. These groups are called Life Together Groups. This is because, in line with our mission, we want to do life together in this church community. Ideally, all of the groups will be intergenerational, with both University students and community members participating.



The small groups will help us to grow spiritually in community with others. In the spring this year, the concept of Life Together Groups was piloted with three small groups. Participants reflected on the groups as follows:

- The group helped us know each other better and feel we were not alone during these difficult times.
- I learned so much and found myself refreshed spiritually and intellectually after each meeting.
- Sharing my life and faith with others in a small group has strengthened my faith.
- Practical spiritual disciplines helped me grow in my daily life as a Christian.
- Faithfulness of the other group members encouraged me when I felt depressed in my Christian walk.
- A very meaningful experience. Loved the chance to pray together at this difficult time!
- I felt edified and uplifted after each meeting.

Life Together Groups will meet for 60-75 minutes every other week for conversation, prayer, laughter, and connection. The book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, will provide some gentle structure for the groups. The primary purpose of the groups is spiritual fellowship and growth. All groups will meet virtually until further notice. Five groups are now forming. [Please sign up here for Life Together Groups.](#) For more information, please contact [Michael Larbi](#).

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP BEFORE CLASS

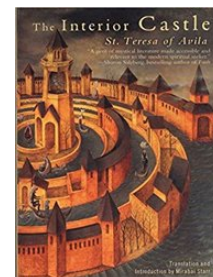
All are invited to come to the Bible study early to visit with other participants. The [Zoom link](#) will be open at **9:30 a.m.** on Sunday mornings, so join early and say “hello”.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE PSALMS

All are welcome to join a study of the Psalms on Sunday mornings from **9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.** The class schedule and [suggested reading is here](#). This Sunday, **August 23**, is the final class which will focus on Psalm 107 with Norm Wirzba and Gretchen Ziegenhals teaching. [The class Zoom link is here](#). If you would like to join by telephone instead of computer, please contact the [Congregation office](#). New participants are welcome at any time. Past sessions of the Bible study are available on the [Congregation’s YouTube channel](#)

BOOK GROUP STARTS ON WEDNESDAY

The *Interior Castle*, a spiritual classic, will be the focus of a six-week book group starting on **Wednesday, August 26**. The *Interior Castle*, written by Teresa of Avila and translated by Mirabai Starr, describes seven stages of spiritual development leading to the soul’s final union with the divine. Teresa, who lived in the 1500’s, is still widely read today. The book groups will meet on **Wednesdays** at **10:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** by Zoom. No reservations are necessary.



Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

FALL EDUCATION SCHEDULE

The Sunday morning classes will begin their fall schedule on **August 30**. These classes are part of a year-round education ministry for all ages and are held on Sunday mornings from **9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.** All classes are provided virtually until further notice.

- Wee Praise – A class of music and movement for infants – 3-year-olds led by Kate DeAlmeida
- Godly Play – A class of spiritual formation for children age 4 – 5th grade led by

Phyllis Snyder

- Youth Bible Study – A study of Ezekiel-Malachi for students in 6th - 12th grades led by Matt Wright
- Adult Forum – A variety of speakers presenting on diverse topics coordinated by Nelson Strother
- Adult Bible Study – A study of Ecclesiastes starting **September 13** led by Nathaniel Metz

WEE PRAISE UPDATE FROM KATE DeALMEIDA

During this unusual time, I hope you have enjoyed extra cuddles from your children. I certainly have missed their smiles and hugs. I will continue to provide videos every other week starting **August 30** using Musikgarten's *God's Children Sing*. Under normal conditions, we would go back to the songs from *God's Wonderful World*; however, I would like to take this time to try out a new curriculum called *Friends in God's World*. It is geared to children ages 3-5 instead of 0-3. Please send me feedback on how this curriculum is working for your family. It includes a Bible story with each lesson as well as some new games and songs. Some of the songs and games will be old favorites. If we find that the curriculum is not working, I will go back to *God's Wonderful World*. I will depend on you to help me determine that.

I also encourage you to send me permission to include your child's name in the "Sing Hello" song. I can even include their photo if you send it to me. There will also be a time for prayer in each lesson. If your family has something they would like me to include in the prayer, please send it to me. You can even video your child asking for prayers if that is something they would enjoy. I love anything that can help us stay connected while we are physically apart.

I urge you to ask for help as we continue this journey into the unknown. I know my family has faced a lot of difficult decisions these past few weeks. I imagine you all are having to make similar decisions. Do not hesitate to call or email the Congregation if you need any sort of support.



A child and her older brother watch Wee Praise together



Later, the brother watches Godly Play

GODLY PLAY UPDATE

As so many things, the start of the fall schedule for Godly Play will be different this year. Weekly online videos will continue with our current series on Saul/Paul. Any 4-year-olds who are ready to move up to Godly Play classes should wait until we are meeting in person again, and continue to enjoy Wee Praise with their families for now. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact [Phyllis Snyder](#).

One positive outcome of being online is that families who have recently moved away from Durham can still participate in classes! Having these familiar classes might be helpful as children adjust to different surroundings in their new cities and homes. One family recently moved back to Indonesia after the dad completed a 2-year graduate program at Duke University. We will miss them, but are glad the child can still be part of Godly Play remotely.



Watching Godly Play from Indonesia

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Youth in 6th through 12 grade will join Pastoral Assistant Matt Wright in exploring several books of the Old Testament this fall during their Sunday morning Bible study. Participants will start with Ezekiel, consider the Minor Prophets, and conclude with Malachi. The class will begin on **August 30 at 9:45 a.m.** For questions or more information, please contact [Matt Wright](#).

ADULT FORUM

With a variety of guest speakers, the Adult Forum offers presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics. The thought-provoking topics include Biblical studies, current social issues and the work of mission agencies.

August 30 – Dr. Brian Stratton, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UNC-Pembroke, “We Know on Our Knees: The Epistemology of Prayer.”

September 6 – Dr. Terry Yuschok, Congregation member, “The Saint with a Tamborine” (Saint Teresa of Avila).

September 13 – Dr. Brent Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, Duke Divinity School, Introduction to the Book of Ecclesiastes.

September 20 – Jillian Marcantonio, Ph.D. Student in Early Christianity, Graduate Program in Religion, Duke University, - “Refreshing Fire: The Mother of God in Romanos the Melodist.”

September 27 – The Rev. Dr. Will Willimon, Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School, “Thinking About White Racism Like Christians.”

PHILOSOPHY STUDY GROUP

Those curious to explore how philosophical concepts interact with the Christian faith are invited to a virtual “Philosophy Study Group” led by Brian Stratton, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UNC-Pembroke. The group will meet **Tuesdays, September 1 and 15, October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17** (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) from **7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Meetings will be by WebEx: [Suggested reading is here](#). All are welcome. No registration is necessary. For questions, please email [Brian Stratton](#).

GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the wisdom literature in the Bible on **Mondays September 7 and 21 at 6:30 p.m.** All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact [Matt Wright](#) for login information.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1) The time for Bible study will be **Sunday, September 13, at 9:45 a.m.**, when adults will begin an exploration of the book of Ecclesiastes. Nathaniel Metz, the Congregation’s Divinity School intern for this year, will lead the study. All are welcome to explore this book of wisdom.

FELLOWSHIP

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Volunteers are needed to reach out to our members to offer birthday greetings by way of email or phone. Each volunteer makes four to six contacts per month, simply offering a friendly greeting. To volunteer or to learn more, please contact [Linda Gauger](#).

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

First, there was the Duke University Church, then the Duke Church Group, and now, since 1985, there is the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Please plan to join a virtual celebration of the Congregation's past, present and future on **Sunday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m.** The event will include highlights from our [history](#), reflections from former pastors, choir music videos, and children's music. No registration is necessary. [Here is the Zoom link for the 35th anniversary celebration.](#)

REMEMBERING OUR HISTORY

For many years, members of the Congregation have participated in the annual CROP Walk, which raises money to fight hunger. These pictures are from 2004 and 2015. As the Congregation prepares to celebrate its 35th anniversary, please send stories, memories, photographs, and videos of our history to the [Congregation office](#) or share them on our [Facebook group page](#).



MISSION



DRIVERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

[Meals on Wheels of Durham](#) welcomes volunteers to deliver meals and make phone calls to homebound residents. The organization has developed practices to keep the volunteers safe and to maintain all local and CDC requirements. For more information, please see their [volunteer webpage](#).

URBAN MINISTRIES SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Urban Ministries provides three meals a day to shelter residents and community members who are hungry. Three or four volunteers are needed to assist with each morning and evening meal. Established safety precautions are in place for all involved. [Please click here](#) to see volunteer opportunities. The shelter also needs volunteers to assist with their newly reopened food bank. Volunteers will receive, stock, and distribute food. To learn more, please contact [Viki Baker](#).



URBAN MINISTRIES
OF DURHAM

DONATIONS FOR COVID RESPONSE

Members of the Congregation have generously given \$14,725 above and beyond their regular giving to reduce the impact of COVID in the Durham community. The Mission and Outreach Committee has allocated funds to local nonprofits to support these agencies as they support residents in need. Grants have been given to Families Moving Forward, Meals on Wheels, Reality Ministries, Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, Ronald McDonald House, Society of St. Andrew, and Urban Ministries. Additional donations are welcomed and may be mailed to the Congregation office; please mark as "Extra Mission Giving – COVID" in the memo.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The NC Council of Churches offers a regular newsletter announcing webinars and other programs on social justice. The Council of Churches [newsletter sign up is here](#).



HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATED

The Habitat House that was sponsored by Duke Chapel, the Congregation at Duke Chapel and other Duke entities last year was dedicated last week. The Congregation will continue to be part of the joint sponsorship of one Habitat House per year.

REWARD EMPOWERMENT GROUPS

Through Zoe Empowers, the Congregation is supporting children in Zimbabwe on their journey to self-sufficiency. One group, the "Reward Empowerment Group," is nearing the conclusion of the three-year program. A report on their progress is [here](#). The photograph is of 19-year old Nyaradzai, who now supports his aunt and two cousins.



GOOD TO KNOW

OUTDOOR COMMUNION

Outdoor communion is offered on the first and third Sunday evenings of the month. Upcoming services are **September 6** and **September 20 at 7:00 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.** at the labyrinth located on the property of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Rd, Durham. All CDC and city safety precautions will be observed including masking, social distancing, and hand sanitation. Masks will be available for those who need them. Group size will be limited to 10 people; [please sign up here](#) to indicate your plans to attend.



HOLIDAY

The Congregation Staff will be observing the Labor Day Day holiday on **Monday, September 7.**

SUGGESTION BOX

One of the simple ideas mentioned at the Congregation's recent Leadership Retreat was to offer a "Suggestion Box" in which members and friends of the Congregation could submit ideas to the staff and council. Ideas on how to improve, expand, or enhance our ministries are always welcome. Ideas and inspiration may be directed to any staff or council member, or submitted in this [Suggestion Box](#).

ONLINE GIVING

For those who wish to do so, [online contributions](#) are an option.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 26 – *Interior Castle* Book Group Begins
- August 30 – Life Together Groups Begin
- September 1 – Philosophy Study Group Begins
- September 13 – 35th Anniversary Celebration

MEET A CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBER

Mission and Outreach Council Representative: Diane Garber

I have been a member of the Congregation and a member of the Mission Committee since 2018. I am very honored to have been selected as a representative of the Mission Committee to the Congregation of Duke Chapel Council for the upcoming term. It will be a pleasure to serve.



I was fortunate to grow up in a church family with parents who were very dedicated to their church and their community. Some of my closest friends, mentors and colleagues have been similarly minded. I have lived in North Carolina for a number of years and recently returned from the western part of the state where I worked for the National Health Scholar program in a rural health clinic in a medically underserved area. I

have also worked in various university settings in clinical research as well as direct patient care. I continue to be licensed in the state of North Carolina to work as a physician assistant which has been my profession since I graduated from Emory University with a Masters degree in medical science a number of years ago.

I have enjoyed the fellowship of the Congregation as well as the Mission Committee. I have had the opportunity to participate in many of the projects with a number of the Mission and Outreach partners. These opportunities are usually listed in the weekly e-news to the Congregation and I would enthusiastically recommend participating in any of these events. Although I enjoy being able to participate with our partner agencies both indoors and outdoors in downtown Durham, I live in northern Durham county in a rural setting where I enjoy the company of my equestrian partners as well as my dogs and cats.

FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT CRAIG DeALMEIDA

In July, more than thirty leaders in the Congregation came together via Zoom for a leadership retreat. We reflected on the past year, gained insights on the Strategic Plan from the Visioning Team, and focused on the year ahead, considering what could bind our many activities as a Congregation together as a single body in Christ. Starting from small group discussion at the retreat and culminating in Council review a week ago, we have developed the connecting statements below. All groups in the Congregation are encouraged to connect their activity with at least one of these statements in the coming year.

This year, we as a congregation will...

- **Develop creative new ways for Congregation members to connect with each other**

Especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, members want to connect with each other, but individuals vary in what ways are comfortable. We aim to provide and promote existing and new ways by which all members can engage with others.

- **Invite people to practice intentional prayer for each other and the broader community**

During our Year of Prayer, we seek to deepen our understanding of what prayer is, what we should pray for, and how prayer can be a means of support for members, organizations, and the broader community. We aim to widen prayer in its many forms as an activating element at all Congregation gatherings.

- **Actively engage in meaningful connections with diverse groups to deepen mutual understanding**

When we appreciate the limits of our personal point of view, we as individuals are able to learn from others with different experiences. Diverse groups build and deepen relationships when they actively talk about what divides them, be it race, age, economic opportunity, or anything else. We aim to create and support these intentional conversations and actions both internally and externally.

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Council met virtually by Zoom on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m

Intro of new member: Ngat Kpa is our youth council member for this year. She is a senior at Durham High School (aka Durham School of the Arts).

Highlights from committee reports:

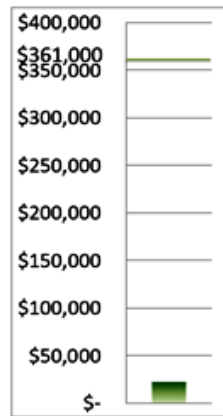
- Ben Wechsler reported all policies and procedures are under review this fall, according to regular schedule.
- Fran Steele drew attention to the wealth of educational opportunities available this fall.
- The Stewardship and Finance Committee reported the annual stewardship campaign will kick-off mid-October.
- Sara led review of financials for July—giving is a little ahead of last year this time and expenses a little ahead. There were no questions regarding the second version of the FY 2020 EOY report. The audit process is to be put in process before the next meeting.
- Craig reported that Sara has resigned as Treasurer after shepherding us through considerable changes with skill and grace. Whit reported that Nominating and Leadership Development has nominated Rick King to serve the remainder of Sara's term and that he has accepted.

Other business

1. Craig reported on the large attendance at the Leadership Retreat and shared three "Connecting Statements" that emerged to guide us in the coming year. Part of the discussion included Fran reporting that Education, Missions and Outreach, and Fellowship will be working together to address issues of racism and its consequences, both historical and current. She reported that the effort will coordinate with Chapel efforts. We are to take to the edited version to committees for buy-in and implementation.
2. Lucy reported on a proposal from 35th Anniversary Working Group who are planning a Zoom celebration on September 13. Group proposes making a gift to the Chapel marking the occasion, as we have done several times in the past. Plan was approved.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

<i>July 2020-June 2021 fiscal year</i>	Actual to July 31	Annual Budget
Contributions	\$22,560	\$361,000
Other Income	\$176	\$0
Restricted Assets Released	\$0	\$0
Expenses	\$33,918	\$360,919
Difference	-\$11,182	\$81



COMING IN SEPTEMBER

September Birthdays

2 Cat Colvin; Dan Ford; Jordan McDaniel

4 Anne Wright

6 Alexandra Butler; Michael Dennehy; Teddy Grosso

7 Andrew Ghoddoussi

8 David Borg; Mark Brown; John Sandor Jr.

11 Tony Willms

12 Maureen Johnson

13 Richard Alexander; Tom Manning; Drew Middleton; Bruce Mueller

14 Gary Bennett

15 Deni Armstrong; Mabel Cacchio; Craig DeAlmeida; Joan Fox; Levi Hains

16 Elaine Briggs; Liliana Guile; Gio Gullotto; Brian Stratton

17 Ben Lester-Bacon; Whitney Schwab

18 Henry Corpening; Jo Anne Dewitt

19 Beth Gray; Christopher Ross

20 Gary Bauer

21 Evebell Dunham; Mark Everett; Julie Hockett; Erin O'Connor; Bruce Puckett; Gretchen Ziegenhals

23 Jim Mau; James Spencer

24 Joel Boggan; Bob Claytor; Jim Haskins; Karen Heitzenrater

25 Ned Arnett; Elizabeth Kenly

26 Padgett Gerler

27 John Foust; Lia King; James Nye; Leigh Wynkoop

29 Robert Califf; Peter Norris

September Communion at the Forest at Duke retirement Community – CANCELED

September Worship Services at Duke Chapel – ONLINE

Worship Services will continue to be broadcast live on **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**

From the Duke Chapel website: [Tune in live](#) to Sunday morning services on the [Duke Chapel YouTube Channel](#), channel 12 of the Duke Hospital TV System, channel 110 of the Duke Campus Vision TV system, and WDNC Radio (620 AM). Listen to rebroadcasts of services on **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** on WPTF Radio (680 AM), as well as on The People's Channel on Spectrum Cable in Durham and Chapel Hill.

Preaching Schedule

September 6 – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

September 13 – The Rev. Bruce Puckett, Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel

September 20 – The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel

September 27 – To Be Announced

CONGREGATION JOYS AND CONCERNS

- *Ed Karolak*: Ed is in hospice care at home.
- *Leroy McRae*: Leroy is recovering from abdominal surgery.
- *Joanne Roobol*: Joanne is recuperating from surgery.
- *Ginnie Ruckert*: Ginnie is recuperating at home.

PRAYER REQUESTS: To request confidential prayer from members of the Prayer Ministry, please send your confidential request to the [Prayer Ministry](#) .

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: All e-News articles and announcements are to be submitted to the following e-mail address: congregation@duke.edu by 5:00 p.m. each Monday.

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT: Please send corrected email addresses or requests to be unsubscribed to congregation@duke.edu .

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Visit our Website](#) | [Visit our Calendar](#) | [Online Giving](#)

[Email](#) | Phone: 919-684-3917 | Mailing address: Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974



The Congregation at Duke University Chapel
Staff



The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
Senior Pastor



Phyllis Snyder
Children's Pastor and
Communications



Kirsten Ford
Communications Assistant



Matt Wright
Pastoral Assistant



The Rev. Ken Moland
Pastoral Assistant



Nathaniel Metz
Divinity School Intern



Michael Larbi
Pastoral Assistant